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NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Family Advocacy invites parents to 'brown bag it'

By Chris Zdrakas  
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Family Advocacy's outreach and prevention program manager Veronica Griffin has another learning opportunity in the bag for parents, this one is designed to help them better understand their families.

The Family Advocacy Program is offering parents a chance to talk informally over brown bag lunches with family issues experts.

"Nothing could be simpler," said Griffin, who conceived the idea with the FAP team. "Parents bring their lunch to the medical clinic and sit down with subject area experts to exchange information."

The first of the 50-minute lunches will be May 12 at noon. In succeeding months, the lunches will be the first Thursday of the month in building 700A in the "red chair" conference room.

Registration isn't necessary, but would be helpful, Griffin said. For information, call her at 327-8427.

Robins phone books available for pick up

The 2003 Robins official phone directory is available for pick up Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 78th Communications Squadron will distribute the books from 8 to 11 a.m. at the East wing of Building 301, next to the mail distribution center.

For more information, contact Audrey Knox at 926-3994.

— From staff reports

Tattoo ceremony set for May 20

Robins Air Force Base will host the annual Tattoo ceremony May 20 at the Musuem Amphitheatre.

The hour-long ceremony begins at 8:15 p.m. and will honor those in uniform who gave the last full measure of devotion. Air Force Materiel Command Commander Gen. Lester Lyles is scheduled to be a special guest.

The Band of the Air Force Reserve and the 82nd Airborne Division Chorus will perform.

The ceremony is open to all DoD civilians, military members, retired military and civilian members and their families.

— From staff reports

INTEGRITY FIRST, SERVICE BEFORE SELF, EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

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Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

# Avionics surges ahead

By Lanorris Askew  
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While red, white and blue flags wave in the sun, orange flags are unfurled inside the Maintenance directorate's

avionics and instruments division denoting a very special activity — surge. According to Greg Stanley, avionics and instruments division chief, 1,500 avionics workers have been

in surge mode since Sept. 19, 2001. These employees have worked 10- to 12-hour days six and at times seven days a week in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and most

recently Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Job one is support to the war fighter," he said. "A lot of our people are veterans or

See SURGES ... Page A-2

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Bob Phillips works on a color weather radar unit. His division has been in surge mode since Sept. 19, 2001.

## Saving time and money

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Walter Tanner and Jeff Cravey demonstrate the corrosion removing tool for the C-5 conebolt. The two's money-saving invention earned them the 2002 Air Force Exceptional Innovators of the Year award and the 2002 Air Force Excellence in Productivity Award.

# Machinists' IDEA saves Air Force \$3.7 million

■ Tanner, Cravey win awards for tool to correct C-5 pylon corrosion problem

By Holly J. Logan  
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When Walt Tanner and Jeff Cravey designed a tool to correct corrosion build-up on the C-5 aircraft conebolt hole, they had no idea their creativity would earn Air Force level awards.

Tanner, a machinist in the Maintenance Directorate's Technical and Industrial Support Division, and Jeff Cravey, now in plant services in the Maintenance

Directorate, were named the 2002 Air Force Exceptional Innovators of the Year, and also earned the 2002 Air Force Excellence in Productivity Award for their problem-solving efforts that saved the Air Force \$3.7 million.

"I was only doing my job," said Tanner. "We had a corrosion problem that would have made this part of these planes unusable, costing us thousands of dollars. Now, we can get the planes repaired and to the customer in a timely manner."

Awards were presented to the two Team Robins members April 10 during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Tanner said the tool, consisting of a piece of metal wrapped with adhesive back sandpaper and a low speed

See IDEA ... Page A-2

## C-17 modification marks partnership

By Faye Williams  
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In a Thursday ceremony celebrating the first C-17 to go through the Global Reach Improvement Program here, Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, received the symbolic hand off of Form 981, returning the aircraft, known as P-13, to Air Mobility Command.

Coolidge then handed off the aircraft to Capt. John Holani, aircrew captain, to return the plane to its home station. A minor mechanical issue delayed take off following the ceremony. The flight was rescheduled for

later in the day.

The transfer signaled a significant step forward for the public-private partnership between the Boeing Company and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

"We have chartered a course together to build a partnership that will ensure long time sustainability and viability for not only our organic, but our private capability as well to support the C-17," Coolidge said.

The Center already performs scheduled Analytical Condition Inspections on C-17s, and GRIP is an annual modification and retrofit plan of block modernization change.

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge, Vice Commander Air Force Materiel Command, was present for the ceremonial hand-off of P-13, the first C-17 aircraft to go through the Global Reach Improvement Program here. The C-17 modification highlights the partnership between Boeing Company and the Center.

The increased GRIP workload was brought to Robins and Middle Georgia as a result of the Globemaster sustainment

partnership between the U.S. Air Force, the Center, and Boeing.

See C-17 ... Page A-2

# 'Ready for the MSEP'

■ IG says inspection an important one

By Holly J. Logan  
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Col. William Saunders said everyone has worked hard to prepare for the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program inspection, and now it's time for Robins to put its best foot forward as the team begins its work on Monday.

"This is one of the most important things we do, aside from war," he said. "It's time to take one last glance, and make sure you are ready to give this inspection your absolute best."

Saunders, inspector general for the Warner Robins Air Logistics

See MSEP ... Page A-2

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Tammie Bocook stands with her husband of more than 16 years, Master Sgt. Ray Bocook. She was recently named the 2003 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year.

# Air Force Spouse of Year: Bocook

By Chris Zdrakas  
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When her phone rang on an otherwise routine afternoon last week, Tammie Bocook was a little surprised at what she heard: "Please hold for General Wetekam."

In seconds, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander, was congratulating the wife of 78th Mission Support Squadron's Master Sgt. Ray Bocook on being named winner of the 2003 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year.

See TEAM ... Page A-5



## SURGES

Continued from A-1

have family members who are on active duty serving in various places, so it gives us a special incentive to be able to do what we do.”

Because many know first hand what it means to provide support to the war fighter, they are 100 percent willing to go that extra mile.

“This is probably one of the few areas that doesn’t have to draft for overtime,” said Stanley. “We have plenty of volunteers.”

Bruce Capechart, support equipment communications and navigation branch chief, said the workforce has done an outstanding job.

“They never lose sight of what they are doing or who they are doing it for,” he said. “They do a superb job of expediting the work and supporting the war fighter.”

According to Mike Pool, of the production operations center, as of April 25, the division had produced 22,264 surge items during the past 84 weeks.

“Right now we are producing 300 units a day or one each minute and a half and 18 percent of that is surge,” said Poole.

A total of 22,892 surge requirements have been given all of which ship directly to the war fighter when produced.

Poole said the function of the production operations center is to manage surge for the division. They

keep track of surge items in a database and on spreadsheets, as well as keeping all statistics and generating battle staff charts.

Surging at twice the rate of Operation Desert Shield Desert Storm, if necessary the division is prepared to go into operations 24 hours a day.

Stanley said in order to show the workforce what a dramatic effect they have on the mission of the war fighter; Special Operations Forces personnel provide briefings of actual field events.

“They bring in war footage to give an understanding of what avionics means,” he said.

“It’s a thanks for what you do from a real war fighter and it gives them both a sense of urgency and a

sense of belonging.”

Mike Martin, electronics worker and Vietnam veteran, said he knows what it is like to need the support that he now gives to the war fighter.

“The people in here work hard and they realize they are supporting the war fighter and the president and his decisions and are happy to do that,” he said.

Martin, who retired from Bell South after 35 years said his work on the B-52 strategic radar system is his retirement job and he loves it.

“I am happy to do whatever I can to support the war fighter,” he said.

Don Mihelarakis, precision attack radar and gyro branch chief, said many of the workers mirror Martin’s thoughts.

“Our people are a part of the Air

Force team,” he said. “What we do is a total team effort.”

When it’s all said and done Stanley said he and his personnel know they have it easy compared to those in the field.

“Our job is the easy one because we go home every night and have hot meals when we want them,” he said. “When we put things into perspective even though we may be working 10 or 12 hours 6 or 7 days a week that’s nothing compared to what the troops are going through.”

Gus Spurlin, planning team and local manufacturing team chief, is pleased with what he sees everyday.

“I am proud of what we do and am amazed at the job the people who are using the tools do,” he said.

## MSEP

Continued from A-1

Center, said his staff, which is charged with the coordination, orchestration, and facilitation of the MSEP inspection team’s entire visit, feels confident that Robins is up for the challenge.



Saunders

“It’s our job to make sure all the puzzle pieces fall into place,” he said. “We want to make sure we are portraying the message that we are ready every day. This is a gauge to measure how well we support the war fighter, and we’re going to show them we’re ready to pass the test.”

The MSEP core team arrived at Robins Thursday and the other 16 inspectors will arrive tomorrow. Saunders said it’s time for people to make sure they know their jobs well, and are familiar with those around them.

“People need to make sure they know their checklists,” he said. “Keep your

leadership informed of things, especially any problems. We want everyone to do their best for this inspection, and have no last-minute surprises.”

Robins has earned the highest MSEP inspection rating for the past three consecutive years, and Saunders said he wants to ensure they continue setting the example for others to emulate.

“This is the first time Robins has been first in line for MSEP inspection,” he said. “We want to prove that first or last, we are still the best.”

The 2003 MSEP inspection will be the first since the Maintenance Directorate’s reorganization that took place last year.

From making sure logistics such as billeting arrangements, meeting and greeting the MSEP team at the Atlanta airport, and other details are mapped out, the IG team has been engaged from beginningto end with the MSEP inspection process.

After a five-month preparation for the MSEP inspection, Saunders said the time has come to show the inspection team from Air Force Materiel Command that Robins knows how to take care of business.

# The MSEP game plan

## ■ Rules to follow for best results

By Holly J. Logan and the Maintenance Directorate  
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It’s taken months to prepare, and Monday, the Maintenance Directorate has its chance to show it’s the best during the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program inspection.

Along with making certain previous year’s findings are corrected and developing action plans for problem areas, the Maintenance Directorate advises employees follow the rules of engagement specified below.

Inspectors will arrive as a team at their specified locations. Points of contact should be available to meet them. With inspectors having more than one checklist, find out which checklist the inspector wishes to first address and have a point of contact escort him or her through the inspection’s completion. POCs should keep in contact, for smooth transition between inspection points.

Do not schedule briefings for inspectors. Information needed for inspections should be included within

the smart books. Team leads should be well-versed on smart book content, and any material not included should be printed and provided to inspectors through the team leads.

Remember, the IG is on a tight schedule. If scheduled to meet with an inspetor, be there when requested.

Only the POC should accompany the inspectors, to provide directions and answer any questions.

First-line supervisors should introduce themselves to the inspectors, and then fade into the background, but remain in the area for the out-brief.

When a mechanical evaluation is performed, only the mechanic, POC, and the inspector should be present.

POC escorts should make note of any findings the I.G notices or mentions. Keep questions to a minimum.

Don’t press for specific source document references. They’re subject matter experts in their areas of inspection, and will provide references in their written findings.

Don’t challenge or argue the finding. A supplemental instruction can mandate a stricter requirement than the source document, but cannot lessen the requirement. If a condition is identified, and the local instruction covers it, bring the supplement to the inspector’s attention.

When discrepancies and concerns are noted, notify Rebecca Davis at [rebecca.davis@robins.af.mil](mailto:rebecca.davis@robins.af.mil) or Jacqueline Rozier at [Jacqueline.rosier@robins.af.mil](mailto:Jacqueline.rosier@robins.af.mil), who will notify the other divisions. If a discrepancy is found, all shops should immediately look for and correct the reported problems in their area.

If a discrepancy can be fixed on the spot, take care of it. This will show a proactive response. One or two minor discrepancies will not make a large difference, but repeated write-ups shows systemic problems and will draw unwanted attention.

Offer assistance to inspectors as they pass through.

Always follow policy, procedures, rules, and guidelines. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when required. Pick up any foreign objects and clean up work areas before leaving for lunch or ending a shift. Secure any tools when leaving a site.

If an IG inspector is in violation of any safety procedures during the inspection, remind him of the requirements.

Be honest. If you don’t know the answer to an inspector’s question, say so. Ensure him that you will find the answer and report back to him.

## IDEA

Continued from A-1

drill, uniformly removes excessive corrosion on the aircraft components, and saves parts that would normally be returned to the warehouse as non-serviceable items.

Cravey said the idea not only saved the Air Force money, but it saved the workers valuable time.

“It helped us get the pylons out quicker,” he said. “Before this, it was going to take months to get them fixed. Now, it only takes s a few days.”

Cravey said it was an honor that he and Tanner’s idea directly impacted the work processes at Robins.

Tanner and Cravey submitted their award-winning corrosion removal solution to IDEA, a Department of Defense program that turns suggestions into improved work productivity.

## IDEA program proves lucrative for the Air Force and employee

Suggestions for workplace improvements could mean lucrative gains for Department of Defense employees and the Air Force, through the Innovative Development Through Employee Awareness program.

According to Carol Norris, IDEA office assistant at Robins, 153 submissions on improvement of work processes and policies have been made to the program since the beginning of the year.

Fiscal year 2002 reflected that 128 of the 360 IDEA submissions were approved, resulting in award payments totaling

\$55,000, and \$4.3 million in tangible savings.

IDEA is a program managed by Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, that benefits the Air Force by encouraging creative thinking and innovative ideas that foster process improvements, economy and productivity.

With awards up to \$200 for suggestions of improvement to work areas outside one's responsibility, and no more than \$10,000 for tangible savings within one's work area, the pro-

gram provides monetary benefits that are twofold.

Ideas for the program must successfully pass the test of IDEA program evaluators, who test the feasibility and cost effectiveness of the suggestions.

Submissions may be made from government computers by accessing the IDEA program link on the Robins Air Force Base homepage at [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil).

For more information on the IDEA program, contact Carol Norris at 926-2536.

— Holly J. Logan



## C-17

Continued from A-1

Prior to the agreement, all major aircraft enhancements and new systems installations that were accomplished during GRIP occurred at Boeing Aerospace Support Center in San Antonio, Texas.

During the aircraft’s three-month stay here, P-13 underwent 10,000 labor hours worth of maintenance. The aircraft received Block 12 upgrades including global air traffic management, electronic engine control and Block 12 avionics. Other scheduled work performed included an ACI, weight and balance of the aircraft, thrust reverser repairs, several depot time compliance technical orders and a home station check.

When unscheduled maintenance threatened to delay the aircraft’s delivery back to AMC, members of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, the C-141/C-17 Depot Maintenance Branch and Boeing combined their skills and accomplished landing gear repairs and inspections as well as repair to a damaged landing gear door.

“I am not at all surprised at the superb teamwork it took to get this first modification aircraft back to the war fighter on time,” said Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander. “The C-17 is a vital Air Mobility asset that is heavily tasked today. Team Robins in partnership with Boeing is committed to delivering quality work on time. We have clearly illustrated that ability.”

Howard Chambers, vice president and general manager, Boeing Airlift and Tanker Programs, agreed.

“This milestone is symbolic of the tremendous partnership between Boeing and the Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center,” he said. “Not only do we design and build the C-17s - and continually deliver them with high quality, ahead of schedule - we are joined at the hip with our customer for the life of the airplane. Just like the C-17 itself, we’re truly in it for the long haul.”

Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge, air force materiel command vice commander, said this partnership will deliver a quality product to the war fighter at the lowest possible cost.

*Lanorris Askew contributed to this story.*

Savannah  
57107602

Starcadia  
56922201

# 5th CCG airmen respond quickly to traffic accident

By Staff Sgt. Adam Stump  
adam.stump@robins.af.mil

Two 5th Combat Communications Group airmen displayed both quick thinking and heroism during an April 16 accident on base. Master Sgt. Scott Bickford and Airman 1st Class William Cook, were taking a break from their jobs just outside of building 951, located in a fenced-in lot. Cook, a 53rd Combat Communications Squadron satellite, wideband and telemetry systems craftsman, was sitting on a picnic table adjacent to the building and Bickford, 53rd NCO in charge of the network systems flight, was standing, looking out at Robins Parkway.

**The accident**  
As they were talking, Bickford said he looked over at the road and “saw a red van going out the Russell Parkway gate get T-boned by another van and start flying through the air.” He said his jaw dropped, and then both he and Cook ran to the scene. “We just took off running,” Bickford said. “Cook was ahead of me and ran to the personnel gate, which was locked. In one motion, he dialed in the combination and the lock opened. I was amazed at how fast he got it open.” Hurrying to the scene, although they both admitted to being a bit in shock, they went right to work. “The first thing I did was run to the van, which was on its side, and look inside,” Cook said. “When I kneeled down to look, I realized I was kneeling in gas.”

**The rescue**  
Cook looked in the back window and saw a woman who was dazed. He asked her if she needed help and she said yes. He then broke the remaining glass out of the woman’s back window, reached inside and helped pull her out.

The two then evacuated everyone away from the accident scene and directed traffic to help the flow of vehicles, which was heavy because the accident happened around 2 p.m. Bickford said Cook realizing there was leaking gas was critical. “I heard Cook shout ‘gas’ and I cleared everyone out,” he said. “Cook was getting her out of the vehicle, but still managed to grab the woman’s purse and wallet.”

**The praise**  
Mike Oliveras, a station chief with the Robins fire department, said the pair’s actions were exemplary. “They recognized the accident scene was unsafe, removed the victim from a potential deadly, flammable, hazardous environment created by the fuel leak, and rendered first aid a safe distance away from the immediate hazard, and offered additional protection to the accident victim, and themselves, as responsible first responders,” said Oliveras, who was the incident commander during the crash. “It was quite



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Stump  
Airman 1st Class William Cook, left, and Master Sgt. Scott Bickford’s quick thinking earned praise from a Warner Robins Fire Department station chief.

impressive for laypersons not generally accustomed to rescue work.” Oliveras added their quick-thinking actions helped prevent a disaster. “Had a fire broke, the driver could have been trapped by the flames, suffered toxic smoke inhalation, been severely burned, or worse,” he said. “There was also potential for a catastrophic ignition and fire was present. Leaking fuel is always looking for an ignition source with air.”

The pair said their responses were second nature. “I just sat there for half a second, then my adrenaline started pumping and I just reacted,” said Bickford. “You see someone hurt, you respond.” His fellow responder agreed. “I just went on autopilot,” said Cook. “I saw the van in mid-air and got to the scene before people in the cars on Robins Parkway even got out. But I think it’s something anyone would do if they saw the same thing.”

# Low levels of bacteria found in Duck Lake

By Faye Williams  
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Low levels of bacteria were found in initial water quality tests following the closure of Duck Lake on April 24 due to a sewage spill.

As a precautionary measure, base officials are asking that anyone who came into contact with the lake water between April 10-24 to contact the Robins Public Health Office for individual assessment at 327-7613. Medical professionals would like to collect pertinent information, answer any questions and provide any appropriate medical advice. “While the water sample results do not indicate a high potential for disease transmission, the outside possibility does exist that persons who had direct hand to mouth contact with the lake water may experience gastrointestinal illness,” said Col. Karl Lee, 78th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander.

## What to know:

Duck Lake will remain closed temporarily. Base officials ask that anyone who came into contact with the lake water between April 10-24 to call 327-7613.

“However, we do believe the health risk to our community is low.” Testing showed that while bacteria levels were elevated, they were within Georgia Environmental Protection Division standards. Tests indicated on Friday that there were 1,006 colonies per hundred milliliters while Sunday’s testing showed 608 colonies per hundred milliliters. Nevertheless, base officials have decided to keep the lake closed temporarily as an extra precautionary measure while they continue to monitor the water quality. Additional sampling of the lake will continue until Duck Lake reopens.

Fickling  
57209601

Cisco’s  
57099101

Ocmulgee  
56975405

Raffield  
57157301



# First ‘Lean Eagle’ completes production cycle

By Lanorris Askew  
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When an F-15 Eagle left its nest at Royal Air Force, Lakenheath, England for a flight to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Oct. 2002, it began a journey that would make F-15 production branch history.

The F-15 Eagle, known as the ‘Golden Jet’ by F-15 workers, was the first to arrive at the Center for fiscal year 2003 and more importantly the first to go through the newly Leaned F-15 program depot maintenance process.

“This is a story about teamwork,” said Col. George Ireland, F-15 production branch chief. “Across the board the team stepped up to the plate and successfully brought about this Lean conversion.”

Steve Peavy, F-15 Lean change agent, said upon arrival the aircraft division personnel accepted the aircraft and set it in motion for its trip through Lean.

“The first steps included the aircraft being de-fueled, the removal of the engines and seats and a trip to the de-paint facility where it was stripped by a robotic process,” said Peavy. “After those steps, the jet was then given a thorough inspection.”

The new Lean process means the jet now flows through eight individual cells.

According to Peavy the first three cells are designed for sheet metal and fuel tank repairs. At cell four the flight controls are put back on and at cell five the wings, which were taken to the wing shop, meet the frame again.

Ireland said tact time is approximately 2.5 days per cell, but the wing shop gets 45 days to refurbish the wings. After the wings are

### What to know:

The F-15 Eagle is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter designed to permit the Air Force to gain and maintain air superiority in aerial combat.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Maj. Fritz Heck, 339th Flight Test Squadron, climbs out of the ‘Golden Jet’ after giving it a test flight.

on, the avionics go back in, systems are checked, fuel is put back in to check for leaks, panels are put on, the cockpit is put back together and then it is set for functional test.

“The jet is like new when it leaves here,” said Ireland.

“We have two goals in this process,” he said. “To have every jet leave on time and to maintain quality on them all.”

“The entire process from start to finish took 104 flow days,” said Peavy. “Last year the average flow was 109 days.”

That means Lean, a program aimed at streamlining maintenance repair, is a success.

“We have converted some nonbelievers into believers,” said Ireland.

From the planning stages the division knew what it would take to write its own Lean success story.

“We knew we had to have spare parts on board, have the cells set up and people in the cells trained to do the work,” said Ireland. “We learned that the process does work when it is set up and run properly.”

Ireland said though the first jet was a success, since its departure the cells have been reviewed twice to make sure the standard work is still being done and everything fits into place like it should.

“It’s a continuing process,” he said. “We continue to look at what we are doing and how we are doing business to make sure we have the most efficient way to do the business. “That’s what Lean is all about.”

Like with any change there were skeptics at the beginning of the journey.

“We had people who were leery about changing the way they did business,” said Ireland.

“Those people who were skeptics last year are now believers in the new system today.”

He said the people on the floor, who make the process work, don’t want to go back to the old way of doing business.



Ireland



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Paul Leonardi, avionics mechanic, installs operational check aircraft systems. The newly Leaned F-15 program depot maintenance process takes 104 flow days; last year it took about 109 days.

“It’s a highly efficient operation and has helped us to save resources that we need to get these jets out on time,” he said.

The idea behind Lean is streamlining maintenance repair and finding more efficient methods to improve capability for handling workload.

Ireland said Lean has enabled his branch to do just that.

“We are able to compartmentalize the work we are doing on the jets,” he said. “No longer do we have to compete for the scarce

resources we need, the aerospace ground equipment we need or spare parts.”

All new processes teach

lessons and as the Lean process continues, the F-15 production branch is making those lessons count.

McMahan  
57165101

Gold’s  
57208901

## Spring cleaning

Jimmy Hatcher and James Brooks, LFC, F-15 Program Control Division, clean up around Building 300. They were taking part in Robins Air Force Base Spring Cleanup Day April 30.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Studio  
57210501

Jimmy  
57042404

Sun retail  
57208701

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# Outpouring to spouses

■ Middle Georgia communities gladly donating in support of spouses of deployed members

By Holly J. Logan  
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Spouses of deployed military members have voiced their needs, and the Middle Georgia community has responded with a tremendous outpouring of support, said Christine Parker.

Parker, Family Support Center director, said gift certificates for meals, entertainment tickets and passes, as well as postage stamps will be available at the FSC when doors open at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

“We’ll give out the items until we run out,” she said.

“Military spouses don’t need to prove their spouses are deployed. They only need to show their family military identification card. We’re working this on an honor system.”

Among the items donated were meal certificates for McDonald’s, Fuddruckers, and other similar priced eating establishments, movie passes good at Warner Robins and Macon theaters, skating passes, and other event tickets and passes.

Spouses will be offered two five-dollar stamps, totaling \$10 dollars of free postage per month for each military spouse, said Parker.

“Our goal is to give these items so that the immediate family can benefit from these donated items,” she said. “It’s not our intention to provide these items for the extended family. With so

many spouses, I don’t expect things to last for long.”

Parker said the awesome amount of support from the community is still continuing.

“I’m overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from our community,” she said. “But living here 13 years, I shouldn’t be surprised. My hat is off to every resident and business in Middle Georgia.”

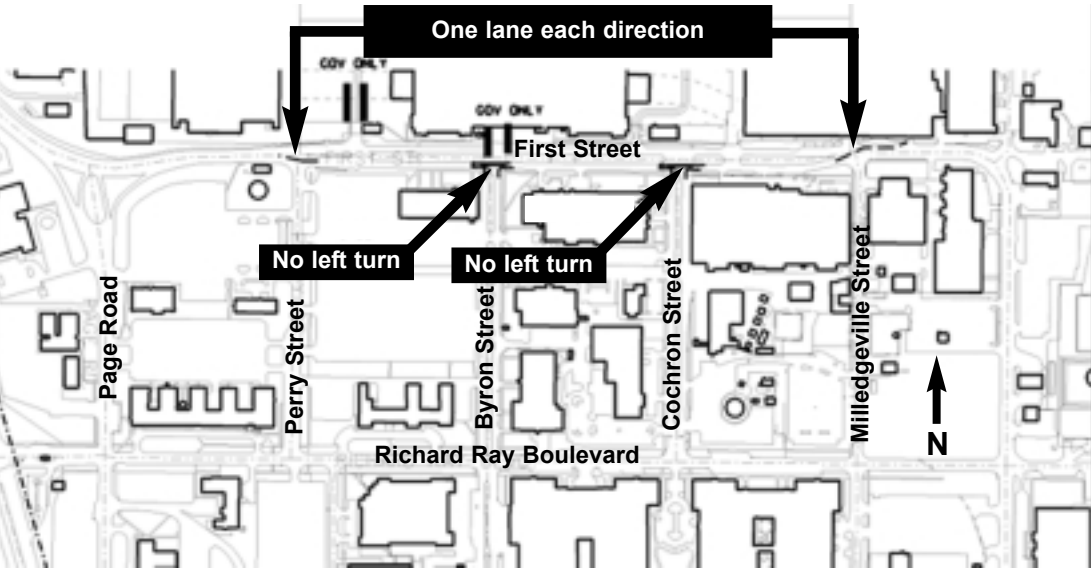
Lt. Col. Stacy Boudreaux, commander of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, said he is proud to see the community supporting troops and their families in this way.

“I know our military spouses have done a great job of voicing their needs, and the community has given them a great amount of support,” he said. “The community has done a tremendous service, not only to our spouses, but to our troops as well.”



## Portion of First Street to close

The westbound lanes will be closed May 12-June 23



Due to construction, a partial closure of First Street is necessary. The two westbound lanes on First Street, from Perry Street to Milledgeville Street will be closed from May 12 through June 23. All traffic will be redirected to the two eastbound lanes, one lane each direction. The speed limit on First Street will be reduced to 20 miles per hour during the road closure. Left turns at Byron and Cochran Streets will not be allowed. The distinguished visitor, VIP gate (31) and the Material Control area at building 125 will remain open for Government vehicles and commercial delivery vehicles only. Slow moving vehicles should avoid First Street during peak traffic periods. In addition, First Street from Gate 1 (Green Street gate) to the intersection of First Street and Perry Street is scheduled to close from 6:30 p.m. May 9 through May 12. The road will be open for normal use May 13. If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Stocker at 926-5820 ext. 607 or Lt. Roberts 926-5820 ext. 238.

Map illustration by Angela Trunzo

## JSTARS warriors come home



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Tom McKenzie

Lt. Col. Brian Searcy of the 116th Air Control Wing braces for a big hug from daughters Brooke, 11, and Madison, 5, after his arrival at Robins following deployment “somewhere in Southwest Asia.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Debbie Berry-Smith

## Fishing rodeo

To celebrate Earth Day, Robins families participated in the Fishing Rodeo and Family Day at Luna Lake April 26. Morning fishing rodeo winners were Brittany Singhas, 1st place; Maggie Duran, 2nd place; and Roman Lahaye, 3rd place. Afternoon fishing rodeo winners were Justin Marcotte, 1st place; Natalie King, 2nd place; and Daniel Beecher, 3rd place. The event also included face painting, crafts and balloons for the kids. Above, families enjoy a day of fishing at Luna Lake.

Left, Roman Lahaye shows off a fish. Lahaye won 3rd place in the morning fishing rodeo.



## TEAM

Continued from A-1

“I never dreamed that I would win,” she said. “I was proud to be nominated, but I didn’t think I would win. The Lord blesses me, I guess.”

The winner of the Robins AFB and Air Force Materiel Command Connie Yates Spouse of the Year, Bocook has immersed herself in Air Force life, a partner to her husband and a helping hand to many.

“I have served because I care about people,” she said. “I always started out to make an impact on at least one person before we left any assignment.”

Instead, she has made an impact on hundreds.

“I think for us, the Air Force is part of our family. If I did not take part, I would be missing out. When I’m working side by side with my husband, I understand exactly what’s going on, and when he has to work nights or go TDY, I understand,” she said.

Her husband has observed that involved spouses “spell the difference between success and failure.”

“You can hit higher levels and reach greater goals if your spouse is willing to be part of the Air Force team,” he said. “I notice where spouses are really behind the member and where spouses are involved, the member excels.”

“Tammie has been involved in the Air Force since our marriage more than 16 years ago,” he said. “She likes to be active. She will give you the shirt off her back, helping anyone who needs it. She is a very giving person.”

He said that each stripe he earns — he just earned another — means more responsibly and more work.

“Tammie always says ‘OK, I’ll help you.’ Numerous times when I’m working late, she brings me dinner at work. For her, no job is too small, and no job is too big.”

She manages to keep a heavy schedule of service while raising a family and working

## ‘Love story’ with a happy ending

By Chris Zdrakas  
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

During his frequent visits to a 24-hour canteen at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Ray Bocook befriended a worker he knew only as “Judy.”

After about three months, Bocook noticed Judy’s name badge, “Judy Jenkins.”

“Hey, I know a girl named Jenkins — Tammie Jenkins,” he said.

“Hey, that’s my daughter,” Jenkins replied.

It was 1 a.m., and Jenkins called home to awaken her sleeping daughter. Bocook took the phone, and a courtship between Tammie and Ray that had been interrupted nine months earlier when he joined the Air Force was rekindled. They were married on Valentine’s Day 16 years ago.

Their reunion was a series of circumstances some might attribute to chance.

Bocook met Tammie in Kentucky, where he and his father visited Ray’s grandfather monthly. Tammie lived in neighboring Flatwoods and was best friends with Ray’s cousin,

Krista. Sometimes Tammie would stay with Krista at Ray’s grandmother’s in Ashland. Tammie said she had noticed Ray and his dad “in passing” during their visits.

“It’s a small town and everyone knows everyone,” she said.

But Ray and Tammie didn’t really take serious note of each other until they met at a roller-skating rink in Ashland.

“I really liked her, and we really liked each other,” Ray said. “I’d see her when I came in town, and I wrote her letters.”

Tammie said Ray had decided who his future wife would be shortly after they began seeing each other.

“He said ‘one day we will be married.’ I thought ‘this guy’s crazy.’”

They lost touch after Ray enlisted in the Air Force. He went through

basic training and two technical schools before being assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

“We thought we would

never see each other again,” Tammie said. The Jenkins’ had moved to Ohio just outside Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. “Who would have thought the same girl would wind up in the

same town I was stationed in?” Ray asked.

Sixteen years later, they enjoy a life as good friends and partners.

“Being friends and communicating is the secret to a happy marriage,” she said.

Master Sgt. Ray Bocook of the 78th Mission Support Squadron and Tammie — the Air Force Spouse of the Year — are parents of three children and active in their community, their church and their Air Force.



Tammie and Ray Bocook, Feb. 14, 1987

part-time. Bocook teaches pre-school three hours three mornings a week at Central Baptist Church in Warner Robins. The

Bocooks have three children — Courtney, 16; Steven, 14; and Micah, 6.

Her husband is flight chief — like the

principal, he said — of Robins’ Airmen’s Leadership School, where Tammie is a familiar presence. Among her long list of activities there, she organized the school’s visit by Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray, also acting as hostess to the chief’s staff, the students and local media. The chief was so impressed he volunteered to return to the school to speak at a graduation ceremony.

She also worked closely with the Noncommissioned Officer Academy commandant to prepare for the chief’s induction ceremony, a highly praised event. In addition, she volunteered to watch children for visiting spouses unable to locate a babysitter in time to attend the ceremony. In all, she spent more than 560 hours as a volunteer staff member for the academy, performing a variety of duties — answering phones, working as information manager and personnel specialist when the school’s manning was low, helping with resource management and budget planning by conducting research to find competitive sourcing “best prices,” helping to order supplies and equipment needed for offices and classroom and filing paperwork.

Car wash, First Sergeant’s Association, Robins Summer Base, Base Chapel Harvest Festival, a local school’s fall festival, a military ministry to help members transition to the community, preparing holiday gift bags for Georgia Children’s Home are just a few examples in a litany of services covering two typewritten pages. She is also active in the family’s church, Central Baptist.

In the essay that earned Tammie Robins’ Spouse of the Year, Bocook said his wife reminded him of the biblical character Ruth because Ruth said, “Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you lodge, I will lodge. I will make your people my people and your God, my God.”

“My wife decided to travel from base to base around the world, make the Air Force people her people and serve the Lord with all her heart,” Bocook said. “Her veins flow with blue blood, and she informs her employers that the Air Force comes first.”



Take the ‘green’ pledge, even in times of conflict

By Steve Coyle  
Director of Environmental Management

I’m asking you to take the “green pledge!” No, not going to Wal-Mart to pick up the latest furniture polish. Not working on your golf game, either. It’s similar to when we ask base employees as part of Earth Day to recycle more during the coming year:  
■ Here’s how I pledge to help make every day America Recycles Day...  
■ I’ll buy more recycled-content products.  
■ I’ll increase my recycling efforts in school, at home and at work.  
■ I’ll encourage my family to become more involved in recycling in our community.



Coyle

So let’s change the last line to show you’ll pledge something slightly different - to change to a “green” mentality so that you consider the environment in daily decisions:  
■ Here’s how I pledge to help make everyday a Green Day...  
I’ll encourage my family to become more involved in “green” activities.  
As you go through life, how much do you take from the Earth? And the more taken, and the less given back, then the closer we come to “wearing out” our environment and its natural resources. And ruin the very quality of life that you work hard to attain and to pass on to the next generation.  
It’s not that complicated - think about how your daily actions impact the earth. Humans can’t just live in a vacuum; natural resources are not endless. Think about how we still have energy shortages regardless of how natural resources are utilized. Remember when nuclear power was seen as the energy panacea, endless and clean? Many of you (admit it if you’re my age) watched newsreels that showed some unknown power source lift-

ing vehicles into the sky as citizens happily flew into work. Didn’t happen, did it?  
Can you relate “greening” to the workplace? Relate it to your role in the Air Force? Relate it to what you do in life? It’s beginning to feel like déjà vu, considering every time I write this column the United States has been engaged in conflict. And, once again, I feel compelled to write about the connection between the war, you and your job, as well as the environment, because of the serious implications for our future. Let me try to connect the dots in the context of the current war.

Wars, regardless of their intent, are not particularly good for the environment. However, environmental protection is increasingly considered during world conflicts, affecting how the United States approaches war fighting. If you look at conflicts in recent decades, directed strikes and smart weapons have made a big difference in the hit rate and reduced collateral damage. More than 7,400 tons of precision-guided weapons were dropped in Desert Storm. Electro-optical glide bombs were used to destroy well manifolds to stop oil from flowing into the Persian Gulf after Saddam’s forces opened the valves. Further, laser-guided bombs destroyed weapons that Saddam could have unleashed against people and the environment. Conversely, using lessons learned in Yugoslavia in 1999, we became even more careful in avoiding targets that might cause severe environmental damage.

AFMC played a major role in developing and deploying these sophisticated weapons. In comparison to the Gulf War and Afghanistan’s Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom is an even more deliberate attempt to reduce collateral damage using a new generation of smart weapons. An

advanced laser-guided Legacy smart bomb uses global positioning, added by Air Force Materiel Command, so clouds do not interfere with “seeing” the target. These munitions, combined recently with stealth technology, put fewer aircraft at risk and saved lives - both aircrews and innocent civilians - as well as the “innocent” environment. (Just think of blanket bombing in past wars that led to a scorched Earth.) On the ground, troops have gone to great lengths to keep civilians safe, even to the extent that they are put in harms way by a regime that uses human shields and suicide bombers. Even so, our troops suffered the least casualties since the Revolutionary War - “more mobile, more lethal, more protected than ever,” says an Army expert in USA Today.

Once again we are trying to avoid ruining the country under siege. Why? It makes no sense to free a country, then let it flounder without resources. Infrastructure, such as oil wells, needs to be intact so that their economy doesn’t grind to a halt. Therefore, we protect oil wells from sabotage, and the dense smoke that comes with it. Ironically, the regime that supposedly cares so much about its own people has not only blown up oil wells but has ignited oil filled trenches in order to blot out targets. (These fires produce inhalable smoke particles that are linked to lung damage.) As the conflict subsides, the U. N. Environmental Program is already planning cleanup operations. Ironically again, most of the cleanup will be for damage previously done by the regime rather than during the war!  
The thinking behind the Marshal Plan of WWII was to make a country prosperous, and (ideally) a prosperous country would not make war. Part of rebuilding Iraq is to make them self-governing as

soon as possible. Having a strong ecosystem and clean environment is a vital ingredient. Iraqi people faced a brutal regime willing to pollute the very environment needed for survival. In addition, they face an environment that is not nearly as blessed as ours in the first place. While watching TV coverage of the war, I came across a special on the relationship of environment and turmoil. Iraq, along with other countries like Somalia and South Africa facing environmental plights, typically have political unrest that results in civil wars and human cruelty. The exact cause and effect is not known but it’s a vicious, hard to break cycle. Be thankful for our bountiful natural resources, beautiful environment, and the freedom to enjoy them. With that comes the responsibility to protect our workplace, homes, community, nation, and, yes, our world.  
What do I want you to take from this? If the United States goes to this much trouble to protect another country’s resources during a war, shouldn’t we care at least that much about protecting Robins Air Force Base and surrounding communities?  
At work - make sure you know what regulations apply to your job, and even ask if you can do more to ensure a healthy and safe workplace. Environmental protection is integral to the Center’s mission. It’s no different than a culture of safety and quality. At home - the next time you make a purchase, is it a “green” one? In your community - ask what is being done to protect our environment for future generations. For the nation - what can the Center do so the next generation of weapons is cleaner to maintain and dispose? For the world - what can the Air Force do so that future conflicts are even cleaner?  
■ Here’s how I pledge to make every day Earth Day:  
■ I’ll work to keep my workplace, home, community and our world safe and clean for today and for future generations  
(By the way, I hope that next year the world situation and my topic will be different!)

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins



Commanders’ Action Line

Col. Tom Smoot, Jr.  
Commander,  
78th Air Base Wing

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam  
Commander,  
Warner Robins  
Air Logistics Center



Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Can these magazines be sent to the troops?  
I was in the mail room in Bldg. 301 about two weeks ago and there was a mail crate out front full of unopened Reader’s Digests with a sign over it that said “take one.” When I opened the plastic packaging, there was a preprinted note from the purchaser saying they sent it to our troops overseas in thanks for their dedication. I just wondered why the mail room was passing these out. The USO is still sending packages to the troops, why couldn’t these have been part of that distribution?

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for the opportunity to spread the word about the free copies of Reader’s Digest being made available by the base Mail Center. Increased security requirements prevent mailing of unsolicited mail or mail not addressed to a particular individual. This requirement was implemented shortly after 9/11 to insure that Anthrax or other dangerous materials are not mailed to military members serving in overseas areas, and to reduce the strain on critical airlift resources currently supporting theater operations. Reader’s Digest is making these magazines available to all military installations and not just to Robins Air Force Base. When we originally started receiving the magazines, they were forwarded to the base library. However, the library has informed us that they do not require all of the copies we receive, so we have been making them available to the base populace. Our military and civilian workers at Robins play a large part in insuring the

defense and freedom of our nation and are certainly deserving of this benefit. In addition, we contacted the USO who indicated they are not sending packages to deployed personnel. Thanks again for your inquiry.  
Will replacement be found for used car lot?  
I noticed the used car lot is closed. The used car lot is a very popular and useful site for people looking to sell or buy a vehicle. It was also a place where people could go on their lunch break to browse for vehicles without having to leave the base. Is there any chance the used car lot will be relocated or reopened in the future?

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for your comments and concern for the Privately Owned Vehicle Sales Lot. Unfortunately, we had to relocate the lot so that the parking area could be used by people working in the surrounding buildings who lost parking spaces due to the placement of security barriers. This lot will also eventually be adversely impacted by the construction of a new entry gate in line with Watson Blvd. We have designated a new used car lot on the north side of Bldg. 641 (Avionics Storage Branch at 621 Page Road) and it will open this week. This new lot will initially accommodate 50 passenger vehicles (no campers or RVs), but will expand in June to accommodate other types of vehicles. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we anticipate the new site will provide expanded service to our customers. For

additional information and status on this issue, you can contact Derek Glisson, Outdoor Recreation Director, 926-4001, or e-mail derek.glisson@robins.af.mil.  
Break room lights need to be fixed  
A power outage a few days ago in Bldg. 125 created a potential safety hazard when one exit sign and the lights on the northwest side of the break room failed to come on, leaving that section of the room completely blacked out. An employee working the break room had to stop and first get her bearings, then find her way out. It was almost impossible for her to see the lock on the door. While this wasn’t a serious incident, it had potential to be something more serious given the lack of lighting. I wrote to you because I didn’t know what channel to pursue or take to get the problem fixed.

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for your concern on safety within Bldg. 125. The facility manager is responsible to perform functional tests on emergency lighting and call in job orders to correct faulty systems. However, in response to your concern, the electric shop personnel performed a site inspection and discovered dead batteries in each of the units in question. The batteries were replaced on the spot and both units were restored to full operation. Please contact your facility manager for future problems of this nature, for that person may have already submitted the requirement or can initiate corrective action as needed.



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# Grievance mediation process proves beneficial

By Civilian Personnel Office Labor Relations Division

The grievance mediation process at Robins continues to remain successful as the program enters its third year.

As part of a renewed emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution, Center Commander Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam and Union President Donald Thompson signed a joint letter of personal commitment to the ADR process in April 2003.

The process is designed to improve communication between management and employees through open discussion. The intent of the grievance mediation process is to resolve grievance issues at the lowest practical level.

Unlike the negotiated grievance procedure, which is often time consuming and costly for both parties, the grievance mediation process is designed to substantially reduce the amount of time and money it currently takes to process an employee grievance.

In 2002, 62 percent of all grievance mediation requests resulted in settlement of the grievance.

Mediators are Air Force trained and certified. The role of the mediator is to facilitate communication between a supervisor and an

employee so that they can mutually develop a resolution to the problem.

The information presented within the mediation session is confidential. Mediators consist of individuals from both management and AFGE Local 987, and are appointed on a rotational basis.

Participation in grievance mediation is strictly voluntary. When a bargaining unit employee files a grievance, he or she is entitled to meet with a union steward in preparation of the grievance. At that time, the union representative advises the employee of the option to pursue mediation of the grievance. When mediation is elected and annotated on the AFMC Form 913, the grievance is placed in abeyance pending the outcome of the mediation cycle. If the mediation results in settlement of the grievance matter, the grievance is considered to be resolved. If no resolution is reached through mediation, the grievance is returned to the negotiated grievance procedure.

The grievance mediation process has proven beneficial in improving communication between management and employees through open discussion. Based on prior success, it appears this process will remain successful for the future.

## ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

The **Military Personnel Flight** will be closed May 16 at noon for a squadron function. If anyone has an emergency, call 954-2774.

An **advanced motorcycling class** will be offered May 23 and 30. Sign up through Security Forces Pass and ID. For more information, contact WR-ALC Safety Office at 926-6271.

A **reunion for current and former 5th Combat Communications Group members** will be held May 23-25. Events

planned include golfing, a trip to Andersonville, a social and a formal dinner. For more information, call 922-1377, 922-5442 or 922-0922; e-mail [rtgillis@cox.net](mailto:rtgillis@cox.net) or [rhsmith343@cox.net](mailto:rhsmith343@cox.net); or go to <http://members.cox.net/5thccg2003reunion/5ccg.htm>.

*To have your announcement printed in the Rev-Up, send information to Angela Trunzo by fax at 926-9597, or e-mail at [angelatrunzo@robins.af.mil](mailto:angelatrunzo@robins.af.mil).*

## Robins announces Web-based community assessment survey

The Integrated Delivery System Working Group is sponsoring the 2003 Community Assessment Survey of service members and spouses.

The information collected will be used to assist the Family Support Center, Family Advocacy Program, Health and Wellness Center, Life Skills Centers, Family Member Programs, and Chaplains.

Air Force service members and their spouses at Air Force bases worldwide will be randomly selected to participate in the study. A notification letter that includes a link to the Web-based survey will be sent out to the work e-mail address of each service member selected to participate.

“The 2003 Community Assessment Survey is a top priority,” said Maj. Beth Zeiger, Organizational Health Center director. “It is the best way for us to listen to

service members and then provide services to help them meet their needs and the needs of their family. It allows them to express their opinions anonymously so participants can respond openly and honestly to issues that affect them every day.”

Survey responses can directly influence family services and related support activities at local bases and throughout the Air Force.

“The 2003 Community Assessment Survey provides service members and spouses a wonderful opportunity to improve the Air Force community,” said Carolyn Stevens, family members program flight chief. “We hope those selected will do everything they can to respond to the survey as quickly as possible.”

Contact Carolyn Stevens, Integrated Delivery System chairperson, at 926-5491 with questions regarding the 2003 assessment.

## Message to the TROOPS



**Emelyn Walker**  
flight attendant

“You guys hurry up and come back because we miss you. We want to fix you lunch.”

U.S. Air Force image by Ed Aspera

Huntington  
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